

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Franklin County is located in Central Ohio and is home to the capital city of Columbus, the largest city in Ohio. The County encompasses an area of 540 square miles, and has a population of 1,068,978, making it the 33rd largest county in the United States. The County is made up of thirteen cities, seventeen townships and fourteen villages.

HISTORY

In 1795 a surveying party of twenty men, led by Lucas Sullivant, came up from Kentucky to survey the deep forest that would later become the State of Ohio. Virginia had ceded southern Ohio to the Federal Government, and kept the land lying between the Scioto and Little Miami rivers to reward its veterans of the Revolutionary War. In 1797 Sullivant laid out a tract of land on the site of an old Mingo Indian village and established it as Franklinton.

On April 30, 1803, the same year Ohio was admitted as the 17th state of the union, Franklin County was established and named in honor of Benjamin Franklin, the great American statesman and patriot. Nine years later the permanent seat of Ohio government was established in the newly laid out village of Columbus.

ECONOMY

Franklin County's economy is diverse and has shown consistent growth in recent years. Major industries in the County include government, services, retail trade, research, finance, insurance and manufacturing. Franklin County's strategic location in the heart of the Midwest makes it an excellent distribution point for many industries that value its proximity to other major cities and to a significant portion of the United States population and consumer markets. Franklin County's distribution infrastructure includes Port Columbus International Airport and Rickenbacker International Airport, a cargo facility with a foreign trade zone. The strong economy and excellent quality of life here have attracted many large companies such as Cardinal Health, Nationwide Insurance, The Limited and American Electric Power, to place their headquarters in Franklin County. Franklin County has also led the State in new business starts during the last four years.

A sales tax of 5.75 percent is collected by the State of Ohio on sales made in Franklin County. The tax is split as follows: 5.00 percent for

the State of Ohio; 0.50 percent for the County's General Fund; and 0.25 percent for the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA).

The unemployment rate is an important indicator of economic stability. The County's November 2001 average rate was 3.2 percent, while the state average was 4.7 percent and the national average was 5.7 percent. The County's rate has consistently been at least 1.5 percent below state and national averages for the past ten years.

EDUCATION

Franklin County's sixteen public school districts, more than fifty private schools and nine colleges and universities provide vast educational opportunities to citizens of all ages. The Ohio State University, the nation's second largest university and a world-renowned research university has its home here. The Columbus Metropolitan Library, a system of 21 libraries throughout Franklin County, further enhances educational opportunities in central Ohio. The Library continues to be recognized by the Hennen American Public Library Index as one of the best public libraries in the United States, ranking number two in 2000 among libraries serving populations of more than 500,000.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Citizens and visitors to Franklin County enjoy a wide variety of restaurants, fairs, festivals, arts, sporting events and recreational opportunities. Franklin County is home to Ohio's Center of Science and Industry and the Wexner Center for the Arts as well as the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Ballet Met, Columbus Symphony and Columbus Museum of Art. Local arts festivals and fairs are offered in the spring, summer and fall throughout the County. The County is also home to many sports teams, including the Columbus Clippers, the AAA affiliate of the New York Yankees, the Columbus Blue Jackets National Hockey League team, and the Columbus Crew Major League Soccer team. An excellent selection of golf courses, boating, fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing round out the outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the County.

Sources: Franklin County 2000 CAFR
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

POPULATION: 1,068,978

HOUSEHOLDS: 438,778

AGE:

Under 5 years old	7.2%
5-18 years old	17.9%
18-65 years old	65.1%
Over 65 years old	9.8%

SEX:

Female	51.4%
Male	48.6%

RACE:

White	75.5%
Black	17.9%
Asian	3.1%
Other	3.5%

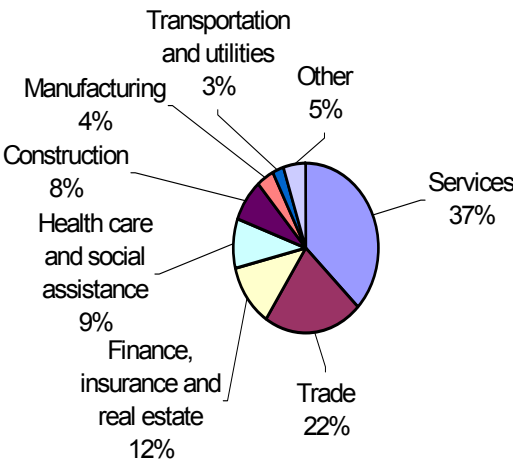
LAND AREA: 540 square miles

PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE: 1,979.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

COMMERCE:

Franklin County Industries



	Establishments:
Services	10,311
Trade	6,017
Finance, insurance and real estate	3,361
Health care and social assistance	2,611
Construction	2,183
Manufacturing	1,060
Transportation and utilities	699
Information	470
Arts, entertainment and recreation	323
Mining	37
Other	572
Total	<u>27,644</u>

TRANSPORTATION:

<u>Highways</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Interstates	118
U.S. Routes	117
State Routes	129

MILES OF COUNTY MAINTAINED ROADS: 312.6

BRIDGES:

Total	420
Maintained by county	370

COMMUNICATION:

Radio stations	22
Television stations	8
Daily newspapers	3

AIRPORTS:

Port Columbus International	
Rickenbacker International Airport (cargo)	
Other commercial airports	5
Other commercial heliports	1

MEDICAL FACILITIES:

Hospitals	16
Physicians	4,942

HIGHER EDUCATION:

Public universities and colleges:
 The Ohio State University
 Columbus State Community College

Nine private universities and colleges

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS:

Columbus Blue Jackets (NHL)
Columbus Clippers (AAA Baseball)
Columbus Crew (Major League Soccer)
Columbus Landsharks (National Lacrosse League)

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS:

Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
Columbus Museum of Art
Columbus Convention Center
Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Garden
Metro Parks
Mott's Military Museum
Ohio's Center of Science & Industry (COSI)
Ohio Historical Center/Ohio Village
Ohio Statehouse
Nationwide Arena
Santa Maria
Veterans Memorial

Source: Franklin County 2000 CAFR

Franklin County, Ohio Government

